

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mahalingham et al.  
Serial No: 10/034,186  
Filed: December 28, 2001  
For: TOPICAL LIGHTENING COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF  
USE  
Examiner: Patricia Patten  
Art Unit: 1654  
Atty. Docket: 680.0054USU  
Confirmation No.: 7732

#11  
BQJ  
7/12/03

RESPONSEMail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2003, the period for response having been extended to June 21, 2003, please reconsider the present application in view of the following:

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 13 have been subject to an election of species requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121. Applicants have been instructed to elect a single, disclosed specie of topical lightening agent for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 8 and 10 to 13 were deemed generic.

Applicants elect coconut water as the topical lightening agent. This election is made with traverse. Claims 1 to 4 and 9 read on the elected specie.